Initiative 2

- Maintain aging facilities
- Implement the CALFED program
- Improve flood management
- Sustain the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

California depends on vast statewide water management systems to provide clean and reliable water supplies, protect lives and property from flood, withstand drought, and sustain environmental values. These water management systems include physical facilities and statewide water management programs.

Facilities—the backbone of water management in California—include over 1,200 State, federal, and local reservoirs, as well as canals, treatment plants, and levees. Systems are often interconnected. The operation of one system can depend on the smooth operation of another. The successful operation of the complete system can be vulnerable if any parts fail.

California's facilities require costly maintenance and rehabilitation as they age. In addition, they face many challenges: meeting the needs of a growing population and changing water use patterns, withstanding catastrophic natural events like earthquakes and floods, and adapting to the changes that accompany global climate change.

By maintaining, rehabilitating, and expanding our water facilities, we improve the efficiency and flexibility of our water management systems. Improvements may include new water storage, additional conveyance capacity, and refinements in the way water systems are operated. These improvements are intended to increase reliability and flexibility in the system, improving our ability to deal with the uncertainty of a highly variable water supply.

Statewide water management programs also contribute to better operation of water systems. These include water-quality standards,

Maintain and improve statewide water management systems to provide reliable water supplies, improve drought and flood management, and sustain the Delta.

Maintain and Improve Statewide Water Management Systems

monitoring programs, economic incentives, water pricing policies, and statewide water-efficiency programs such as appliance standards, labeling, and education.

By improving our water management systems, we will assure that Californians have clean, affordable, and reliable water supplies for agriculture, industry, businesses and homes.

Maintain Aging Facilities

California must maintain and rehabilitate its aging water facilities, especially those that provide drinking water, sewage treatment, water delivery, and flood control. These are operated by State, federal, and local entities.

Aging facilities risk public safety, water supply reliability, and water quality. The State Water Project is over 30 years old; the federal Central Valley Project is over 50 years old. Some local facilities were constructed nearly a century ago. These and other aging facilities must be carefully maintained and rehabilitated to protect public investment and ensure that our water management systems continue to provide intended services.

Implement the CALFED Program

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is intended to develop and implement a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. The program significantly reduced conflicts over Delta operations through better agency coordination and implementation of comprehensive resource management solutions.

The CALFED program proposes actions to improve and increase aquatic and terrestrial habitats and improve ecological functions in the Bay-Delta, reduce the mismatch between Bay-Delta water supplies and current and projected beneficial uses, provide good water quality for all beneficial uses, and reduce the risk to land use and associated economic activities, water supply, infrastructure, and the ecosystem from catastrophic breaching of Delta levees. State government must provide leadership for the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. This will continue our progress toward meeting CALFED objectives of improved water supply reliability, good water quality, ecosystem restoration, and levee system integrity.

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